

George Washington to Nathanael Greene, October 6, 1779, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters at West Point, October 6, 1779.

Sir: Congress having received intelligence that Count D'Estaing, with a considerable Fleet and Army, has arrived upon this Coast, and that it is the intention of our Ally to operate against the enemy in these States; they have been pleased to direct me to concert and execute such plans of cooperation, with the Minister plenipotentiary of France, or the Count, as I may think proper, and to make the preparations necessary for such an event.

You will therefore, immediately take measures to provide upon the North River; [Connecticut River, and in] the Sound as many Boats and other Craft as may be deemed necessary for an enterprise against the enemy in New York, should an attempt upon that place and its dependencies be determined upon. You will also endeavour to provide Tents sufficient for the covering of ten thousand Militia, which number we shall be under the necessity of calling into the Field in case we commence the before mentioned operation. You will take into consideration the number of Teams which may be thought necessary to support such an operation, and to bring forward the military and other stores essential to the expedition.

I approve of your plan of calling upon Major Eyres in Philada. to employ as many ship Carpenters as can be found willing to engage in the expedition. They will hasten the previous preparations of the Boats, as well as aid some other operations in the course

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of the Business. You will generally make such preparations in your department, as such an operation as the before mentioned may seem to require, having constantly in view the necessity of being in readiness as soon as possible.¹

The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Franklin.